

## IN MEMORIAM

## HANS HORST MEYER

The New York Academy of Medicine regrets to inform its fellowship of the death on October 8, 1939, of one of its most distinguished honorary fellows, Professor Hans Horst Meyer of Vienna. His association with the Academy began thirty-five years ago when his scientific contributions in pharmacology resulted in an invitation from the Harvey Society to deliver the first Harvey lecture in the Academy on October 7, 1905 on the Meyer-Overton theory of anesthesia.

Hans Horst Meyer was born at Insterburg (East Prussia) March 17, 1853; studied at the Universities of Königsberg, Leipzig and Berlin; graduated in medicine from the University of Königsberg in 1877; elected an Honorary Fellow of the Academy November 5, 1936. Introduced to the methods and literature of physiology by Max Jaffé at the University of Königsberg, he later became assistant in pharmacology to Oswald Schmiedeberg in Strasbourg.

In 1882, when 28 years of age, he was called to the professorship of pharmacology at the University of Dorpat (then Russia, now Estonia). In 1884 and for a period of twenty years thereafter, he occupied the chair in pharmacology at the University of Marburg, with such distinguished associates as the pathologist Ludwig Aschoff and the internist Friedrich Mueller. It was during this time that many of his fundamental contributions to pharmacology were made.

In 1904, he became professor of experimental pharmacology at the University of Vienna where he continued to serve until his retirement in 1924. In a period when the teaching of pharmacology was largely didactic, he first employed the experimental method of instruction.

In 1908, he refused a call to the professorship in Berlin, preferring to remain in

Vienna as head of the distinguished Institute for Experimental Pharmacology. Here came numerous pupils from all parts of the world. Among his American pupils were Dr. George Whipple, now Professor of Pathology and Dean of the Medical School of the University of Rochester, Dr. Henry Gray Barbour, now Professor of Pharmacology at Yale University, and many other outstanding investigators. He is well known to most American physicians and students because of the comprehensive work, "Die Experimentelle Pharmakologie als Grundlage der Arzneibehandlung," which was published in collaboration with Professor Gottlieb of Heidelberg and later with his pupil and successor, Professor Ernst Peter Pick, who is now a resident of New York. An English translation of the eighth edition of this classic work was published in 1932. His latest work "Hypnotica" in collaboration with E. P. Pick, appears in "Handbuch der Normalen und Pathologischen Physiologie," vol. 17, Berlin 1926.

Aside from the many honors which came to him during the course of his long and fruitful career, such as the honorary fellowship in the Academy and in many other scientific societies, he was the recipient of honorary degrees from the Universities of Vienna, Königsberg, Marburg, St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Professor Meyer's greatest achievement lies in having related pharmacology to biology and in establishing pharmacology as the basis of rational drug therapy. His influence upon experimental pharmacology will never be fully appreciated because of his scientific generosity and his modesty. The Institute of Experimental Pharmacology in Vienna had the most delightful atmosphere of mutual helpfulness and high endeavor. The lives of all who had the privilege of working under his guidance

were permanently affected by this spirit of scientific fellowship. He was beloved by all his students and associates in Vienna where he exerted a marked influence upon the entire faculty of medicine.

In characteristic fashion, retirement at the age of seventy failed to dim his scientific and professional ardor. For years thereafter, he continued to work in his institute, guiding the scientific work of the younger assistants. Like his great American colleague, William Henry Welch, the period of retirement from academic work in his chosen field served merely to open new vistas of useful activity. During the

World War and for some years thereafter he spent much of his time in the study of cardiovascular physiology and therapeutics at the famous Heart Station in Vienna where he had an opportunity in his later years to apply his knowledge of physiology and pharmacology more directly to the care of the sick.

The political turmoil of recent years and its destructive effect upon Viennese medicine saddened the last year of his life. Until the end, his true nobility of character and his interest and love for his associates and friends remained undaunted.

GEORGE BAEHR.

#### DEATHS OF FELLOWS

MEYER, HANS HORST: born at Insterburg (East Prussia), March 17, 1853; died in Vienna, October 8, 1939; studied at the Universities of Koenigsberg, Leipzig and Berlin; graduated in medicine from the University of Koenigsberg in 1877; elected an Honorary Fellow of the Academy November 5, 1936.

Introduced to the methods and literature of physiology by M. Jaffé at the University of Koenigsberg, he later went to O. Schmiedeberg at the University of Strassburg under whose direction he soon advanced to the position of assistant. In 1881 he qualified for a lectureship in pharmacology at the University of Strassburg. In the same year he was appointed professor at the University of Dorpat (then Russia, now Estonia). In 1884 he removed to Marburg where he taught for twenty years. During that period he accepted several invitations to give lectures in England and America. In 1904 he assumed the professorship of pharmacology at the University

of Vienna, which he retained until his retirement in 1924.

Dr. Meyer's greatest achievement lies in having established a close link between pharmacology and biology, and in having made pharmacology the basis of a rational medicinal therapy. His comprehensive work "Die Experimentelle Pharmakologie als Grundlage der Arzneibehandlung," Berlin and Vienna, 1910, published in collaboration with R. Gottlieb (with an English translation of the 8.ed., 1932) is considered a classic. His latest work "Hypnotica" (in collaboration with E. P. Pick) appears in "Handbuch der Normalen und Pathologischen Physiologie," vol. 17, Berlin 1926.

VAN COTT, JOSHUA MARSDEN: 160 Henry Street, Brooklyn, New York; born in New York City, June 12, 1861; died in Brooklyn, New York, February 8, 1940; graduated in medicine from the Long Island College Hospital in 1885; elected a Fellow of the Academy November 1, 1906.

Dr. Van Cott had practiced in Brooklyn for fifty-four years and was emeritus professor of pathology and clinical medicine at the Long Island College of Medicine; senior physician to the Brooklyn Hospital; consulting physician to the Kings County, St. John's, Methodist Episcopal and Wyckoff Heights Hospitals; consulting pathologist